

BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

Website: www.bvff.wa.gov

The 204th regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #112 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Richard Kistler with Board Member Ronald Ayres, Board Member Ken Boad, Assistant Attorney General Jerome Westby, Assistant Attorney General Johnna Craig, Assistant Attorney General Spencer Daniels, Chief Stan Loertscher (Mason Co. FPD #13), Commissioner Mark Watenpaugh (Cowlitz Co. FPD #6), Chief Jake Doty (East Pierce Fire and Rescue) Chief Randy Coggan (Grays Harbor FPD #5), Firefighter Gerald Bailey (Grays Harbor FPD #5), Firefighter John Nelson (Grays Harbor FPD #5), Dave Hauge (Grays Harbor FPD #5), Executive Secretary Brigitte Smith, Confidential Secretary Irene Keiffer, Benefit Specialist Julie Ikenberry, and Office Assistant Sandi Williams present.

The agenda was reviewed and Secretary Smith stated that item #12 under New Business could be removed because the Board discussed the lease agreement at the last regular meeting. It was further agreed to move item #8 under Old Business, an update on the Clifford Webley case, up to item #2 on the agenda to accommodate the Assistant Attorney Generals. It was moved by Boad, seconded by Ayres, and carried that the agenda be approved with the changes.

Chief Stan Loertscher, Mason Co. FPD #13, expressed a concern that his department could no longer find physicians willing to perform new volunteer physicals for \$50. He asked that the Board consider increasing the amount paid for physicals. Secretary Smith was directed to research when the amount was last increased and check with the State Actuary's Office to see if the fund can support an increase in the amount paid.

Confidential Secretary Irene Keiffer updated the Board on the status of the Grays Harbor #5 investigation. She stated that she is just finishing the compilation of all of the data and organizing it into a letter of facts, findings, and recommendations. She is hoping to have a final report prepared for the Board by the February meeting.

The Board returned to the regular meeting area at 9:30 am. Upon seeing if there were any guests missing, and seeing none, Chairperson Kistler asked if there were any objections to reconvening the regular meeting immediately. With no objections heard, Chairperson Kistler reconvened the meeting at 9:30 am.

It was moved by Boad, seconded by Ayres, and carried that Assistant Attorney Generals Westby and Craig be authorized to settle the Clifford Webley Case.



The Board reviewed the final order in the case of Steven Hora, City of Westport. It was moved by Ayres, seconded by Kistler, and carried, that Mr. Hora be granted long term disability as allowed under RCW 41.24.150 as a result of his June 14, 2003 fire service injury.

The Board reviewed the final order in the case of Barry Kerth, City of Union Gap. It was moved by Boad, seconded by Ayres, and carried to deny payments for the treatments provided by Dr. John Rasmussen.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she sent a letter notifying Attorney Brian Snure of the Board's decision at the last regular meeting.

Secretary Smith informed the Board of additional comments received regarding the participation standards under consideration. She stated that the only new comments received since the last regular meeting were from Jim Wright, Klickitat #9. He called to say that he would prefer that the Board set the standards for the state. He felt that would make things more "cut and dried" and would ensure that firefighters across the state were all treated the same. He also discussed how difficult it is for fire departments to develop standards because of differences of opinion within the department. He felt that having departments struggle through the process would divide the departments and create hard feelings. He also felt that the retirement pension uses state funds, therefore the decision regarding participation standards should be made at the state level.

Chief Randy Coggan, Grays Harbor #5, asked to address the Board. He stated that he felt it was appropriate that the State Board set the standards. One standard across the state would be particularly helpful because of the transient nature of the volunteers. If each department sets a different standard, it would be more difficult for the volunteer to know the expectations. If the standards were set on a state level, the volunteer would know clearly what was expected of them no matter what department they transferred to. He asked that the Board just keep in mind the departments' differences and find some way to account for volunteers' schedule variations. His department has set some interim standards while waiting to see the outcome of the Board's decision. Currently, his department requires all firefighters to attend 50% of drills and 30% of the responses that their station is called to. Chair Kistler asked if they have a way to count standby time into their standards. Chief Coggan informed him that they do not currently take that into account, but may do so at some time in the future. Finally, Chief Coggan said that the fire service looks to the Board for direction in this issue. A statewide standard would make things uniform for all departments and would provide a valuable tool for departments to determine who is active and who is not.

Firefighter Gerald Bailey, Grays Harbor #5, also asked to address the Board. He was concerned that he, as an active firefighter, could be penalized for calls that occurred while he's not at home or while he is working. He asked that the Board keep that in mind as they continue to work on the standards.

Secretary Smith updated the Board on upcoming legislation that could effect the Board. So far, the only piece of legislation that had been introduced was legislation to add a COLA to the Line of Duty Death Benefit (SB 5177 & HB 1266). Secretary Smith has been working with the Commissioner's Association on legislation to allow buy backs of pension payments for periods of time of active service prior to joining the pension plan. Participants would also be allowed to make up withdrawn payments. Both types of buy backs would have to be done at the full actuarial value. Secretary Smith had drafted the legislation and had it reviewed by the Attorney General's Office. With the Board's approval, she would submit the draft to the Commissioner's Association. Secretary Smith also informed the Board that she has been working closely with Representative Kristiansen's Office to draft legislation to provide a vocational rehabilitation benefit to participants who are unable to return to the prior career field because of their fire service injury. She reported that her draft was consistent with what is provided by L&I and used much of the same language. She stated that Representative Kristiansen's Office was hoping that the Board would endorse making the legislation slightly retro-active to enable one of his constituents to be eligible for the benefit. Secretary Smith was directed to help the Commissioner's Association in any way to pass legislation to allow the buy backs and inform Representative Kristiansen's Office that the Board supports making the vocational rehabilitation legislation retro-active as long as the Actuary is able to certify that the fund can handle the additional cost.

Secretary Smith provided the Board with a packet of information regarding on-line survey providers. In her research, she found companies that would build the survey, post it, gather all of the data, and provide a report to

the Board. She also found software that could be installed on the office computers that would enable to staff to build their own surveys. Secretary Smith voiced a concern that none of the current staff members were dedicated IT personnel and all had vital job duties to perform. She was concerned that the staff would not have the time or expertise to build a survey, compile the data, and report to the Board. In reviewing some of the materials, Secretary Smith was additionally concerned about the security and accuracy of the results. It was unclear what would prevent some people for taking the survey multiple times and skewing the results. After much discussion, Secretary Smith was asked to research some of the companies more and to speak with Mike Matlick from the State Fire Marshal's Office because they used some software for a similar survey and he may be able to provide some insight as to how it worked.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed a request to accept documentary evidence to prove service for the years 1992 and 1995 for Clarence Starks, Grays Harbor #5. Chief Randy Coggan, Firefighter Gerald Bailey, Firefighter Dave Hauge, and Firefighter John Nelson all spoke on Firefighter Starks' behalf. Mr. Bailey stated that Mr. Starks owned a dairy farm and would often respond to calls while still in his rubber work boots. Often, his wife Pat would accompany him. Because Mr. Starks frequently went to the calls from his farm, and returned right back to work after the calls, his name would get left off of the response sheets. Mr. Bailey was the chief at the time and stated that the fault should be his for not being diligent in ensuring that everyone on the calls was getting credit, but that they just didn't worry about that back then. Firefighters Hauge and Nelson stated that they remembered Mr. Starks as well and that he was always there. There were other people that lost credit as a result of the investigation, but they weren't really active and didn't deserve the credit. Mr. Starks was active and deserved it. Mr. Bailey presented the Board with additional documentation and sworn statements from other members to attempt to prove that Mr. Starks was active. The Board reviewed all the given documentation and statements and asked a few questions of Firefighters Bailey, Hauge, and Nelson. After some discussion, it was moved by Boad, seconded by Ayres, and carried that the additional documentation provided be accepted and sufficient proof that Clarence Starks was an active volunteer firefighter for the years 1992 and 1995.

Firefighter Gerald Bailey thanked the Board for their decision and their hard work. He then left the meeting to inform Pat Starks, Clarence's widow, of the Board's decision.

Chief Randy Coggan also thanked the Board, Confidential Secretary Irene Keiffer, and Executive Secretary Brigitte Smith for their work.

All personnel for Grays Harbor FPD #5 left the meeting.

The Board reviewed a request from Aneska Sanders to allow Nate Watson's family to hire a companion for him (Whitman Co. FPD #12). Nate requires 24 hour supervised care because of his fire service injury. He is easily bored and the family is having a difficult time of meeting their other obligations and providing care for him. It was moved by Ayres, seconded by Boad, and carried that Mr. Watson's family be reimbursed the cost of providing a companion for him for up to 20 hours per week, not to exceed a reasonable rate to be determined by Secretary Smith.

The Board reviewed a contract for IT services with Technology Solutions Group entered into by Secretary Smith.

The Board reviewed Secretary Smith's leave and pay records.

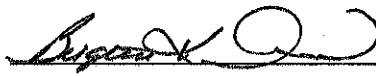
The Board reviewed and approved (Kistler moved, Ayres seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered 1384-1438 and various travel vouchers.

There was a motion by Ayres, seconded by Kistler, and carried that the retirement pensions and lump-sum settlements listed below be approved effective on the listed dates:

		<u>Effective Date</u>		<u>Amount</u>
Absher, Michale	Snoqualmie Fire	11/07/06		290.00 @ age 65
Adams, Lee M	Skagit CO #8	01/01/07		300.00 @ age 65
Allen, Patricia	Port Townsend Fire	07/11/06	SURV	1678.81 Lump
Askins, James E	City of Palouse	11/20/06		2200.39 Lump
Avery James H	Jefferson CO #1	11/17/06		77.00 @ age 65
Baldwin, Michael C	City of Westport	12/02/04		220.40 @ age 62
Behounek, Darrell L	Pierce CO #6	12/01/06		4180.74 Lump
Bergau, Glenn F	Pend Orielle CO #4	10/04/06		230.00 @ age 65
Bird, Larry E	Whatcom CO #3	10/22/06		187.50 @ age 65
Brandom, Robert D	Yakima CO #5	10/12/06		52.50 @ age 60
Briggs, Scott	Whatcom CO #6	08/15/06		165.00 @ age 65
Bryant, Gary	City of Sequim	09/02/06		4180.74 Lump
Butler, Carl	City of Grandview	12/07/06		77.00 @ age 65
Chisholm, David M	Skagit CO #4	01/01/07		300.00 @ age 65
Christie, George W	Spokane CO #2	02/24/06		2610.84 Lump
Clarkson, Dale	Okanogan CO #4	09/15/06	J	257.10 @ age 65
Clerf, Roger N	Kittitas CO #2	11/28/06	J	245.40 @ age 65
Conley, Dale(Robert)	Klickitat CO #9	07/09/06	J	92.84 @ age 65
Couture, Eugene R	City of Ephrata	04/11/05		3444.90 Lump
Crossan, Carole J	Mason CO #4	10/14/06	SURV	111.16 @ age 62
Davis Jerry Lee	Stevens CO #1	12/11/06		300.00 @ age 65
Don, Larry	Skagit CO #10	06/02/06		3740.66 Lump
Eshelman, Charles	Klickitat CO #5	12/02/06	J	245.40 @ age 65
Estoos, Norman T	Grant CO #5	11/04/06	J	219.44 @ age 65
Frank Edwin A	Anacortes Fire Dept	09/06/06	J	240.12 @ age 64
Frei, Terry	Whitman CO #12	01/04/07		228.00 @ age 62
Gohl, Clinton	King CO #39	02/20/06		3960.70 Lump
Graves, Linda E	Cent Kitsap Fire	03/18/06	SURV	129.49 @ age 62
Greenway, Yvonne L	Grant CO #10	09/13/06	SURV	227.70 @ age 65
Gunstone, Richard	Thurston CO #5	12/20/06		66.50 @ age 65
Hargraves, Colleen	Selah Fire Dept	10/11/06	SURV	3136.06 Lump
Harmer, Evelyn	City of South Bend	05/18/06	SURV	144.87 @ age 65
Hetterly, Lee	Whatcom CO #1	11/11/06		3740.66 Lump
Hollenbeck, Larry L	Adams CO #5	10/01/06		5005.89 Lump
Horton, Douglas	Lewis CO #7	12/12/06		300.00 @ age 65
Johnson, Ronald L	Whitman CO #10	12/01/06		252.00 @ age 63
Kimball, Ron	Wahkiakum CO #3	08/10/06		53.20 @ age 62
Knapp, Robert	Lewis CO #6	01/01/07		300.00 @ age 65
Koster, Randall J	Sedro-Woolley Fire	10/21/06	J	192.43 @ age 62
Kuzaro, Gerald	Enumclaw Fire Dept	03/08/07		228.00 @ age 62
Ladwig, Vernon L	Lincoln CO #7	10/03/06	J	163.06 @ age 63
Lang, Jack	Grays Harbor #7	12/14/06		3300.58 @ age 60
Latterl, James V	Pierce CO #16	10/15/06		202.50 @ age 65
Leibelt, Calvin	Grant CO #3	12/19/06	J	252.00 @ age 65
Loria, Lee C	Kitsap CO #2	02/27/05		2030.65 @ age 60
Lervick, Dewayn	Snohomish CO #20	08/01/06		80.50 @ age 65
Maler, Dennis G	Adams CO #2	12/08/06		112.50 @ age 65
Martin, Robert A	City of Davenport	11/01/06		300.00 @ age 65
Matthews, Robert L	Camano Is Fire	08/30/06		148.20 @ age 62
McNeeley, Mike	King CO #46	10/29/05		2661.44 Lump
Melhus, Richard	Town of Rosalla	10/28/06		58.52 @ age 62
Moon, John R (Bob)	Lewis CO #6	10/23/06		204.00 @ age 61
Moore, Gerard K	Yakima CO #9	11/12/06		300.00 @ age 65

Munden, Larry D	City of Dayton	03/02/07		182.40 @ age 62
Nelles, Richard	Skagit CO #8	10/15/06		300.00 @ age 65
Nugent, Phillip D	City of Zillah	03/12/06	J	202.77 @ age 62
Raap, Louis	Grant CO #3	12/08/06		300.00 @ age 65
Rasmussen, Ivan L	City of Burlington	11/17/06		300.00 @ age 65
Rehms, Earl H	Stevens CO #1	12/15/06		228.00 @ age 62
Rising, William	Columbia CO #3	10/18/06	QDRO	177.93 @ age 65
Powers, Sandra	Columbia CO #3	10/18/06	QDRO	55.17 @ age 62
Robbins, Harold	Lincoln CO #7	08/23/06		2200.39 Lump
Roberts, Kristi	Yakima CO #7	10/17/06	SURV	115.57 @ age 54
Rosenfeld, Howard	Town Of Friday Harbor	08/18/06		70.00 @ age 65
Schafer, Jeff	Jefferson CO #2	10/24/06	SURV	3883.18 Lump
Smith, Gene L	Buckley Fire Dept	11/01/06		148.20 @ age 62
Snell, Thomas L	Douglas CO #5	12/06/06		228.00 @ age 62
Snyder, Michael J	Mason CO #17	10/01/06		180.00 @ age 60
Storm, Vaughn N	Jefferson CO #1	10/09/06	J	236.10 @ age 65
Thonney, Steve	Walla Walla CO #8	12/11/06		120.00 @ age 65
Tonn, Rick	Walla Walla Co #8	10/15/06		180.00 @ age 60
Triplett, Linda	City of South Bend	12/10/06	SURV	93.73 @ age 50
Troxel, Rollan E	Grant CO #8	07/21/06		135.00 @ age 65
Twidwell, Louella	Mason CO #9	11/17/05		52.50 @ age 65
Untinen, Robert G	King CO #50	12/06/06		210.00 @ age 65
Wildfang, Bob	Chelan CO #6	10/15/06		300.00 @ age 65
Williams, Anthony J	Town of Odessa	12/09/06		4400.78 Lump
Wirta, Erick N(Rick)	Lewis CO #6	01/31/07	J	215.96 @ age 63
Workman, Donald L	Island CO #3	07/21/06		180.00 @ age 65
Young, William R	Whatcom CO #13	07/30/06		159.60 @ age 62

There was a motion by Boad, seconded by Ayres, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



Brigitte K. Smith, Executive Secretary